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SAC Minutes for 12 Sept 2023

**Attendance:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Faculty and Staff** | **Parents** |  |
| Mrs. Fatolitis | Mara Talley (Chair) | Maria Anderson |
|  | Jacy Nary (Co-Chair) | Natalia Keretsis |
|  | Jason Weaving (Treasurer) |  |
| **Community** | Veronica Zsido (Secretary) | **Students** |
| Kevin O’Neill – SRO  Ryan Theil – SRO | Jessica Rimel  Marieva Rivera | Lily Tipton |

**Guests:**

**Absent**: E.J. Dahlquist, Jon Lelekis

**1. Call to Order:** A meeting of the Tarpon Springs High School Advisory Council (SAC) was held on Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023. This meeting was held in the Tarpon Room. Mara Talley called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm (Fatolitis/Theil). Veronica Zsido, SAC Secretary, took minutes for this 2ndt SAC meeting of AY2023-24.

**2. Adoption of Agenda:**  The agenda, which had been electronically distributed to members in advance of the meeting, was approved. Maria Anderson pointed out that she was not on the email distro, and Chairwoman Talley made immediate note to correct this.

**3. Reading / Approval of Minutes:** May Minutes and the August Minutes were electronically distributed prior to the meeting. The May Minutes were approved without edit (Theil/Anderson), and the August Minutes were approved with minor typo edits (name misspelled and position title incorrect) (Theil/Anderson). Secretary Zsido agreed to make the edits and send final/approved May and Aug Minutes to SAC Chair within the week for posting on the TSHS SAC page.

**4. Budget:** SAC Treasurer Jason Weaving briefed SAC budget balance is unchanged from last month: $80.12 remaining from last year. TSHS SAC still waiting on funding from District. The goal of the budget is to support SIP initiatives.

**5. Old Business.** No old business was revisited from August SAC meeting.

**6. New Business:**

No new funding requests were submitted.

**7. Reports:**

* **Principal Report - Mrs. Fatolitis**
  + The TSHS Tardy Policy was explained in detail, and Principal Fatolitis agreed to provide an electronic copy of the policy that will be attached to these minutes for further review by the committee and to make it readily accessible to any who read the SAC minutes posted on the TSHS site. The revised policy is designed to make things easier for teachers who now only have to mark students absent or tardy (if not in seat when the bell rings): administrators will not track absences and tardies to assign consequences IAW the posted policy. Accumulated absences and/or tardies result in disciplinary actions that range from phone calls to meetings with parents as well as referrals and possible in-school suspension or temporary “time out” from extracurricular activities/sports. TSHS will continue to work to get the word out on this revised policy, which supports TSHS SIP.
  + Like every other school in the district, TSHS is working to ensure that we are in compliance with “controversial material” guidance. The media specialist is working with district to revamp our media center. SAC discussion on this topic continued to include some members’ concerns that it is unclear how district determines which books are to be banned. Zsido asked if it was true that one parent in the district was behind the majority of the books that have been (or are in consideration to be) banned. Principal Fatolitis commented that she had also heard that same thing but couldn’t confirm if it were true. Anderson expressed additional concerns about the risk of banning books that have significant literary merit and are not necessarily inappropriate for high school age children. Zsido asked if district maintains an up to date list of all banned books on the PCS website, and Principal Fatolitis said that although it didn’t, there was a search tool on the PCS site to check to see if a specific book is banned. Also, it was discussed that there are “opt out” forms for parents to sign if they have concerns over movies shown or books read in the classrooms.
  + Principal Fatolitis provided an update on TSHS testing and student performance statistical trends over the last three years. 98% graduation rate for last 3 yrs. ELA had been trending up, but no additional gains last year. Focusing on improving math, and gains have been made. Science and Social Studies are doing well but took a little dip. 2024 targets: 62% ELA, 52% Math, 70% Social Studies, 74% Science. 86% of our students are on an accelerated track, have taken AP/AICE/College courses, or earned an industry certification. Principal Fatolitis offered to provide the full statistics in a separate document (or link) that can be added to these minutes because there is important information in the subgroup data (Asian/Black/Hispanic/Multi-Racial Scholars). With respect to Black Scholars, there is a strong focus on closing the currently larger gap (the Hispanic gap is also of concern, but it is smaller). ELL (English Language Learners) students are a group of concern as well. SAC member Natalia Keretsis, who speaks fluent Russian, offered her assistance if TSHS needed any extra help with eastern European students who also speak Russian. Of note: the data also segregates out and analyzes performance stats on students who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program (to focus more on socioeconomic impact).
  + APEX has started for credit recovery.
  + AP PreCalculus has successfully replaced AICE Math.
  + 27 Sept = 12th grade Parent Workshop; 5 Oct = 9th grade; 11 Oct = 10th grade; 18 Oct = 11th.
* **SRO Report – Officer O’Neill**
* Flyers for upcoming holiday food drive will be distributed soon.
* There will be an assembly for students to receive NOPE presentation. NOPE is a non-profit organization that focuses on increasing student awareness of the dangers of drug use and stressing the importance of “saying no” to drug use. Will address OD prevention and stats (dangers of fentanyl, etc.).
* Working on coordination to conduct a full-blown DUI reenactment prior to prom. Large-scale participation: support from Ms. West and TSHS drama students, Sheriff, and even Dobies Funeral Home.
* Upcoming Parent-Student night to address social media, human trafficking, Vaping. SAC Chair Talley mentioned More2Life, which is another great resource that addresses cyber-bullying and more.
* **SAC Student Rep input**
* Lily T commented on how students can no longer eat lunch in the auditorium (because it was causing a mess), but they can still relax inside the auditorium during the lunch period (after eating outside), which provides a nice break from the hotter outside temps.

**7. Open Agenda (3 minute per person time limit- if time allotted):**

Veronica Z shared Mu Alpha Theta has doubled in size, and Mr. Zsido (TSHS MA0 chapter sponsor) is organizing induction, and that BTC is underway (free tutoring every Wednes evening at Union Academy, 6:30-7:30) and she’ll brief JCAA Boosters to spread the word and recruit student chefs to assist with the meal prep.

It was mentioned that no SROs were present at the Volleyball tournament, but Principal Fatolitis confirmed presence of TSHS Administrator who would request immediate security/medical support, if needed.

Maria Anderson shared our all-state choral program is running a fundraiser: every 2nd Tues, Johnny’s Tap House and the Orange Cyle Ice Cream parlor donate a portion of their proceeds to support TSHS Chorus.

Principal Fatolitis added that all TSHS programs are off to a great start. Our football team is generating a lot of excitement (Cheerleading & Flag Football too), especially our mascot: Derek G is doing amazing even in this extreme heat (we are looking at additional ways to keep him cooler inside the costume). Also, fund-raising efforts are making great use of social media and producing wonderful videos. Zsido shared the Cross Country video not only showcases our athletes but also captures Coach Sneed and AP/Coach Farber running!

**8. Next Meeting Confirmation:** The next AY2023-2024 SAC meeting date will be on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, at 6:15 pm.

**9. Meeting Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:03pm. (Theil, Zsido).

Minutes are APPROVED with the following corrections: Edited text has strikethrough marks and blue font corrections.

Minutes Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes on official procedures for approving minutes: Nothing is ever erased from the minutes. Corrections are made in the margin and then edited within the original document by the secretary and resubmitted to the Chair for publication on the TSHS SAC webpage. If wording is to be expunged, a line is drawn through the words that are to be expunged. Crossed out words should still be readable. When minutes are approved, the word “approved” and the secretary’s initials and date of the approval are written above. To correct minutes previously approved require a 2/3 vote IAW Roberts Rules. Minutes should be written “promptly” and distributed public as per Sunshine Law requirements.